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THE DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Press Release

DHHS Offers Free Radon Test Kits for Your Home

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, January 13, 2014

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Raleigh, N.C. - During the month of January - National Radon Action Month - the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services is emphasizing the importance of having a home safe from radon. The N.C. Radon Program, administered by the Department of Health and Human Services, is distributing free radon test kits while they last.

Radon is the leading cause of lung cancer in the U.S. among non-smokers. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates that radon is responsible for more than 21,000 lung cancer deaths per year in the United States. This is more than the number of deaths associated with DUI accidents.

Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that is invisible, odorless, and tasteless. Radon is released harmlessly from the ground into outdoor air, but it can accumulate and reach harmful levels when trapped in homes and buildings.

Because radon is found in granite type rocks, many counties in mountainous regions of western North Carolina have been designated by the EPA as "Zone 1" counties. This means the average home will test higher than four picocuries per liter (pCi/L), the level at which the EPA recommends fixing your home. Houses in the same neighborhood can have very different levels, so every home should be tested.

There are three ways that you may receive a free test kit:

- visit the N.C. Radon website at www.ncradon.org to order a free test kit;
- visit any of the following 20 County Agriculture Extension Offices that have a supply of free kits to distribute while supplies last in these counties - Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Burke, Cherokee, Durham, Hoke, Franklin, Graham, Henderson, Johnston, Lincoln, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Person, Stokes, Transylvania, Watauga and Yadkin; or
- visit any of the following County Health Departments on the following dates where staff from the N.C. Radon Program will visit from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. to distribute test kits and answer questions:

Jan. 14, Mitchell County, 130 Forest Service Drive, Suite A, Bakersville

Jan. 15, Yancey County, 202 Medical Campus Drive, Burnsville

Jan. 16, Davie County, 210 Hospital St., Mocksville

Jan. 17, Davidson County, 915 Greensboro St., Lexington

Jan. 21, Caldwell County, 2345 Morganton Blvd., Suite B, Lenoir

Jan. 22, Alexander County, 338 1st Ave., SW, Suite 1, Taylorsville

Jan. 23, Catawba County, 3070 11th Ave. Drive SE, Hickory

Jan. 24, Jackson County, 538 Scotts Creek Road, Suite 100, Sylva

Jan. 27, Rockingham County, 371 NC Highway 65, Suite 204, Wentworth

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